

Photographs from the Highlands (updated 5/27/2003)

Source: Mike Zirpolo kindly contributed a handful of scanned photographs/postcards of the old Newton Highlands Post Office and other local scenes.

The Congregational Church is in the middle of the Highlands. It is visible in the photo above and in the two photos that follow.



1907 photograph of a scene at Rockledge and Woodcliff streets.



The Newton Highlands Railroad Depot.

A station was first built at the location of the present day Newton Highlands MBTA stop when the Charles River Railroad was extended through Newton in 1852. This single track railroad was used to carry fill and gravel from Needham to the Back Bay during the late 1800s. The railbed was upgraded in the 1870s. By the end of the century, the Boston and Albany railroad provided regular passenger service using steam locomotives on a route that ran from Boston's South Station, along the current Green Line to Riverside, then around the loop in Auburndale, connecting to the present Worcester-Framingham commuter line, and then back to South Station. Called the Circuit Railway, this line led to the rapid development of the village of Newton Highlands. Freight service along the Circuit Branch ceased in 1958, in preparation for the opening of electrified trolley service in 1959 (the present day Riverside Green Line).



The Newton Highlands Railroad Depot is now an MBTA stop, with the building housing an automobile parts store. Notice the steam locomotive parked at the station.

A train on the Highland Branch in 1948



The Eliot MBTA Station



An old Green Line PCC-type train inbound at Eliot Station.



What follows are postcards showing scenes around Newton Highlands. First is the square, looking down Lincoln Street, with the Stevens Block at the right. Next is the Hyde School (which apparently still included the Highlands Library at that time). Third is a view of the bathing beach at Crystal Lake. Finally, a photo of the Woman's Club.

Hyde School, Newton Highlands.



Bathers at Crystal Lake, Newton Highlands.



Women's Club, Newton Highlands



Special thanks go to Peter Szolovits, who created the majority of this History of Newton Highlands, and who updated the photos on this page. His kind permission to use these materials is greatly appreciated.

We hope to add more information on this page. Anybody with additional historical information, please contact the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council, via Srdjan S. Nedeljkovic, by e-mail: srdjan@zeus.bwh.harvard.edu

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